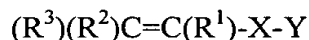


What is claimed:

1. A composition comprising a pre-formed, hydrolytically susceptible non-addition polyanionic polymer comprising polymer strands formed from at least one ethylenically unsaturated monomer, wherein the polymer strands are linked by at least one linking moiety comprising a hydrolytically susceptible bond, wherein at least one of which monomers has:

- i) one or more functional groups that can be titrated with base to form negatively charged functional groups, or
- ii) one or more precursor groups that are precursors of the functional groups that can be titrated with base; which precursor groups are converted to the functional groups;

wherein at least one of the ethylenically unsaturated monomers is according to the formula:



wherein:

Y is $-C(O)OR^4$; $-O-S(O_2)OR^4$; $-S(O_2)OR^4$; or $-S(O)OR^4$; wherein R^4 is hydrogen or a cleavage permitting group;

X is a direct bond; a straight or branched alkylene group having two to six carbon atoms (preferably C_1 to C_6), one or more of which can be replaced by O, S, or N heteroatoms, provided that there is no heteroatom in a position α or β to Y; phenylene; a five or six membered heteroarylene having up to three heteroatoms independently selected from O, S, and N, provided that neither Y or $R^3R^2C=C(R^1)-$ is bonded to a heteroatom; and

R^1 , R^2 , and R^3 are independently selected from, hydrogen, C_1 - C_6 alkyl, carboxy, halogen, cyano, isocyanato, C_1 - C_6 hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl having 2 to 12 carbon atoms, C_1 - C_6 haloalkyl, C_1 - C_6 cyanoalkyl, C_3 - C_6 cycloalkyl, C_1 - C_6 carboxyalkyl, aryl, hydroxyaryl, haloaryl, cyanoaryl, C_1 - C_6 alkoxyaryl, carboxyaryl, nitroaryl, or a group -X-Y; wherein C_1 - C_6 alkyl or C_1 - C_6 alkoxy groups are either linear or branched and up to Q-2 carbon atoms of any C_3 - C_6 cycloalkyl group, wherein Q is the total number of ring carbon atoms in the cycloalkyl group, are independently replaced with O, S, or N heteroatoms; with the proviso that neither doubly-bonded carbon atom is directly

